



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Shura Increases Communication in Zabul**

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jerry Wilson

**Zabul, Afghanistan** – More than 100 village representatives crowded into the Afghan National Police Station in Suri, Zabul Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss important issues during a meeting known as a Shura.

There were several key officials from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, GIROA, including Assistant Governor Gulabshah and Provincial Council Chair Faroq.

Gulabshah addressed the group on the importance of taking responsibility for their areas and stand united against insurgents even though they are not armed. He also told the villagers to be happy that Coalition Forces were there to help aid in the rebuilding of the country. The central focus of the shura was peace and stability.

National Defense Service, Col. Shahzada, discussed what he thought were Afghanistan's three biggest areas of concern; security, education and development. Shahzada stated that Afghanistan needs to develop as a nation and stop relying on Coalition Forces to take care of them. He stressed the need for

tighter security along the Afghan, Pakistan border. He also spoke of how the Afghan people are tired of being at war and how the locals need to work with GIRoA to bring peace to their nation.

Following the Shura, Shin Kay Elders, Coalition Forces and the district chief ate lunch provided by the Afghan National Police. The elders of Shin Kay discussed many issues concerning the future of their community over a good meal.

Across the Zabul Province, shura's like this one are being held to allow local citizens a chance to talk with GIRoA representatives to foster a unity and cooperation between the government and people of Afghanistan.